

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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R 301521Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1225

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KNOG

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

DIA WASHDC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PHOR, CB, UR, US

SUBJ: SOVIET COMMENTARY DENOUNCES AMBASSADOR DEAN

1. PROMINENT SOVIET COMMENTATOR YURIY ZHUKOV DENOUNCED THE ACTIVITIES OF US AMBASSADOR TO CAMBODIA JOHN GUNTHER DEAN IN A PRAVDA COMMENTARY OF JULY 28. THE ARTICLE, QUOTING SELECTIVELY FROM RECENT ARTICLES BY NEW YORK TIMES AND AFP CORRESPONDENTS, REFERS TO AMBASSADOR DEAN'S ALLEGED EFFORTS TO PROP UP THE LON NOL REGIME AND TO ENCOURAGE ITS MILITARY FORCES. ZHUKOV REPEATS THE STORY THAT AMBASSADOR DEAN PROMISED A CASE OF CHAMPAGNE TO THE TROOPS DEFENDING

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THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF

PREY VIENG IF THEY HELD THE TOWN. THEY DID, AND THE CHAMPAGNE WAS SENT. ZHUKOV LINKS THIS GESTURE TO THE ENTIRE AMERICAN AID EFFORT IN CAMBODIA AND CONCLUDES THAT "EVEN A RIVER OF CHAMPAGNE" COULD NOT SAVE LON NOL. HE ASSERTS THAT "THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE" OPPOSE LON NOL FOR SELLING OUT THE NATIONAL INTERESTS.

2. COMMENT: THE PERSONAL ATTACK ON AMBASSADOR DEAN BY NAME IS QUITE EXTRAORDINARY AND MAY REFLECT THE TONE OF THE ARTICLES ZHUKOV QUOTES. MORE IMPORTANT IN POLITICAL TERMS, HOWEVER, IS THE INDICATION THAT THE SOVIETS CONSIDER LON NOL A LOSER AND THE US EFFORTS ON HIS BEHALF FUTILE. IRONICALLY, THE ONLY BATTLE MENTIONED WAS A GKR SUCCESS, BUT THE IRONY SEEMS CLEARLY TO BE UNINTENDED. THE ARTICLE MADE NO MENTION OF THE GKR'S RECENT OFFER OF UNCONDITIONAL NEGOTIATIONS. STOESEL

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